

Morden's History of the Present State of all Nations.

BY MR. SALMON.

London MDCCXLIV.

The Present State of Siam, p. 64.

The town of Malacca which gives name to the Peninsula was taken from the Portuguese by the Dutch, October, 1640. When it was in possession of the Crown of Portugal it was a place of great trade, and frequented more than any other town in India, except Goa, here being the rendezvous of their shipping from China, Japan, the Spice Islands, etc.

They built the castle and fortified the town with a wall, and it had five parochial Churches, a College of Jesuits, and was a Bishop's see, but the Dutch have let all the Churches run to ruin, except one; and the trade is removed to Batavia: it is now only inhabited by two or three hundred families of Dutch, Moors, Portuguese and Chinese, with some Malays who live in the suburbs, and has a garrison of two or three hundred soldiers. This place is naturally very strong, and by its situation commands the Straights of Malacca: The Dutch, who are masters of it, overawe all the little princes on those Coasts, and compel them to deal with them on their own terms; they look upon themselves to be lords of that part of the world, and almost exclude all other Europeans from any share of the trade.

15. Sincapura is situate in the first degree of North latitude, and gives its name to the Eastern part of the Straights of Malacca.

16. Johr which lies to the Eastward of Sincapora in about one degree 30 m. This town, and the province it gives its name to, have thrown off their allegiance to the King of Siam; but the Dutch are in a position to give laws to them when they please, and it is only because they do not think it worth their while that they have not a garrison there.

P. 71. The principal trade of the English in this country is driven at the port of Malacca, in the possession of the Dutch: hither the English send two or three country ships yearly from the Coast of Coromandel and the Bay of Bengal, with Callicoes, slight silks, opium, etc., and make profitable returns in canes, rattans, benjamin, long pepper, sugar, sugarcandy, sapan wood, and sometimes gold may be had at a reasonable rate; but this is a trade prohibited by the Dutch, and carried on by connivance of the Governor, council and fiscal.

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Mr. Lockyer has given us the following account of their weights and prices goods bore there in the year 1704.

The weights, he says, are 16 mace to 1 buncal of 1 ounce 9 pennyweight 12 grains Troy: 100 catty are a pecul of 137½ lbs., is 5½ lbs. larger than the common China pecul; and 3 pecul are a bahar.

(*Selections*) *Price Current July 1704.*

	Rixdoll.	Sk.
Aquila wood per pecul	50 to 150	— 00
Canes per mille.	60	— 00
Copper per pecul	24	— 00
Gold Acheen per buncal	24	— 00
Gold China ditto. 93½ touch	24	— 06
Opium per chest	312	— 00
Quicksilver	80	— 00
Rattans per 100 bundles 14 foot long	16	— 00
Sugar per pecul	03	— 00
Tyn per behar	40	— 00

To this account of the trade of Malacca I shall subjoin a farther description of the place and inhabitants, extracted chiefly from Mr. Dampier and Mr. Lockyer, who were both upon the place.

The town of Malacca stands on a low level ground, close to the sea-side: on the East side of the town there is a river, which at spring-tide will admit of small vessels, and on the East side of the river stands a strong fort, between which and the town there is communication by a drawbridge: this fort is built at the foot of a little steep hill, and is of semicircular form, like the adjacent hill: the walls are founded on rock, very thick, and carried up to a considerable height; and the lower part of them is washed by the sea at every tide: on the other side of the hill, there is a large moat cut from the sea to the abovesaid river, which makes it an island: and that part next the land is stocked with great trees: on the hill stands one little Church which serves the Dutch inhabitants; and it is to be presumed, the Portuguese, who are pretty numerous, may have a chapel in the town; but travellers do not mention any temple for the rest of the inhabitants.

In the town are between two and three hundred families of Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese, and Moors, and two or three great Armenian merchants. The Chinese have the best shops; the houses are generally built with stone and the streets are wide and strait but not paved: The native Malaysians who inhabit the suburbs, live in poor mean cottages, and are kept in great subjection by their haughty Dutch masters: but it is observed, they still retain a desperate sullenness in their looks: and the Malaysians of the neighbouring provinces have frequently revenged themselves on the Dutch for the tyranny and oppression exercised on them and that restraint the Hollanders put upon their trade all along the Malayan Coast by their guardships, insomuch that it is very difficult for their people to trade with any but the Dutch.

The town of Malacca is healthful, considering the climate, and is neither subject to the hot winds of the Coast of Coromandel, or those chilling ones in Sumatra. It is not a place of any great trade at this day; but as the Dutch are masters of the Streights of Sunda to the South of Sumatra, and this town gives them the command of the Streights which bear the name of Malacca to the North, while they are in possession of this place they have in a manner the trade of China and Japon in their hands, and can exclude any other nation from it they happen to be at war with. Indeed ships may pass the Streights of Malacca without coming within reach of the guns from their fort; but then they have guardships ready to intercept their enemies; and they continually make the Portuguese pay toll for every ship that passes by at this day, as the Portuguese formerly served them. And it is observed, this town is naturally so strong, that the Dutch could never have taken it, if the Portuguese had not been frightened out of it.

Collier's Dictionary.

SECOND EDITION 1688.

MALACCA. A town of Asia, in the Peninsula of the Indus on the other side of the Ganges, called formerly the Golden Chersonese. It has the kingdom of Siam to the North and is everywhere else surrounded with the ocean. Heylin says it is 270 English miles in length, of a disproportionable breadth, extream hot, and, though neither populous nor fruitful, yet very rich by its commerce with all nations. In 1500 the King of Siam, from whom Malacca revolted, endeavoured to reduce it with 200 ships, 3000 men, and 400 elephants, but in vain. The Aire of it is unwholesome, but the conveniency of the Harbour, and the great trade makes it famous, not only in the Indies but even in Europe.

The country and town of Malacca belonged to the king of Ihor. The duke of Albuquerque conquered it for the Portuguese, who built a fort there and made it an episcopal see; but the Hollanders took it after 6 months seige in 1640. The town of Malacca is situate upon the Streights which separate the firm land from the Isle Sumatra. It rains twice or thrice a week here, all the year over, except in the months of January, February, and March. The air is very good and agrees very well with strangers, though the Portuguese published the contrary, to hinder other nations from settling there.

Mandesto, Olearius, Linchot's voyage to the Indies. Maginen. Geogr.

MALAISES. A people in the kingdom of Malacca, in the Peninsula of Indus, beyond the Gulf of Bengala. A great number have settled themselves in the kingdom of Siam. They are Mahometans; but there is some difference between their religion and that of the Turks and Persians. They are good soldiers and great robbers.

Siam is commonly divided into eleven provinces, which formerly had each of them the name of kingdom, viz. Siam, Martavan, Siara, Tanasserim, Keda, Pera, Ihor, Juncalaon, Paarn, Patana and Ligor; some of them still retain the name of principalities, but they who possess them pay tribute to the King of Siam whose subjects they are. There are also other countries which have the name of kingdoms and are tributary to the King of Siam, as the kingdom of Camboja, Gehor, Patane, Queda, Singgora, etc., the most part of which do every year present a nosegay of golden flowers as a tribute.

IHOR. A citie and kingdom of the Indies, within the peninsula on the other side the Ganges. It is situated on the most Southerly part of the Indies, near Malacca, which King Ihor often attacked. The city which gives its name to the kingdom is built upon piles, near unto a river which runs unto the sea near the promontory of Syncapura. There is a good Port; and the greater part of the city is named Batusaber, and the least Cotasalan.

PATANA. A country unto Malacca, in the Peninsula of Indus, beyond the Gulf of Bengala, tributary to the king of Siam. The town Patana stands upon the seashore. The king and palace and that part of it where the Grandees of the Court live is fortified with pallisadoes. The air is very good, though they have a great deal of heat there. Their summer begins in February and lasts until the end of October; and during the months of November, December and January it rains continually with the wind at North East. They have one sort of fruit or other every month and their hens lays eggs twice a day: great plenty of cattle and fowl, and a vast number of tigers, elephants, and monkeys in the woods. The inhabitants are of the Mahometan religion and are stately and conceited in their gate, but their conversation is civil enough. The Chinese and Siamese who have settled here are very intelligent and understand sea affairs but the Malaccese apply themselves only to Husbandry and fishing.

Salmon's Geographical Grammar 11th edition 1769.

THE MALAYAN PATER-NOSTER. Bappa kita, jang adda di-surga namma mou jadi bersakti; radjat-mu mendarangkan hatimu menjadi de bumi seperte de surga; roti kita derri sa-hari-hari membrikan kita sa-hari inila; makka berampunlah pada-kita doosa kita, seperti kita berampunkan siapa bersala kapada kita; d'jang-an hentar kita kapada tjobahan, tetap di-lepaskan kita dari jang d'jakat; karna mu pun'jh radjat, daan kawassakan, daan herbas-saran somepy kakakal. **Amen.**